

My City Houston Map Viewer, Version 2 Web Site

<http://mycity.houstontx.gov/mycity2> | GIS Helpline 832.393.6555

Developed and hosted by **Enterprise GIS and Houston Information Technology Services, COH**

About My City

The '**My City Houston, Version 2**' interactive mapping web site provides the citizens of Houston a means to access the most current **geographic information systems** (GIS) data and aerial imagery (current and historical). These data are hosted within the City's enterprise GIS system. Users of the web site are provided with a variety of search and identify tools to assist them in finding information relevant to their needs. Version 2 completes in 2014. However, the City's GIS data are constantly updated to assure that the data in this application are of the highest quality and as current as possible. My City 2 - <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/mycity2>



Background

The **My City 2** application is a web-based mapping application that allows its users to interact with over 200 map layers and datasets that are relevant to the City's mission. The sites also include multiple sets of aerial imagery and scanned maps.



My City 2 Overview Guide

Users can select either '**Address Locator Services**', '**Map Layers Menu**', '**City Services Menu**' or '**Identify Tool**' to quickly navigate to specific addresses or features.

The '**Address Locator**' tool function works off a single address string and locates addresses based on a best match. The locator then provides services of **Jurisdiction Info**, **Solid Waste Schedules** and **Police** of that specific address. Other information includes City Council Districts, Super Neighborhoods, City, County, Harris Voting Precinct, Heavy Trash Pickup, Recycle Pickup, HPD Division, HPD District, HPD Beat, etc.

The '**Map Layers**' tool provides a quick way for users to display high interest map layers. Neighborhood, Government, Recent Crimes, Flood Hazards, Permits, Transportation, Demographics, Cadastral, Planning and Development, Public Utilities, Public Works Engineering, Public Health Safety and Aerials 2012 are just a few of the categories that the public can access in the datasets.

The '**City Services**' tool provides the important services of **Neighborhood**, **Emergency** and **Crime Services**. '**City Services**' search tool provides information from an address, point or map center of a specific location, and locates that information onto the map layer. Some of the layers include Schools, Libraries, Museums, Parks, Recycling Centers, Fire Stations, Hydrants, Hospitals, and Crime within the last 30 days, etc.

The site also provides the first map-driven access to the city's ILMS building permit data (ranging back to 1987) with its '**Search Permits**' tool. A "**redlining tool**" is also provided to allow the users to annotate the map. This tool includes the ability to save the graphics to a file. This file can then be transmitted to others so that they can be re-loaded on to **My City** from another location or at another time. The site also includes a print to PDF function.



Enterprise Geographic Information System

Enterprise GIS, City of Houston

Houston Information Technology Services, 611 Walker Street, 5th Floor, Houston, TX 77002

Questions or problem about **My City** can be directed to our GIS Helpline **832.393.6555**

For technical questions, please contact:

Luke Lu-Chia Chuang @ Lu-Chia.Chuang@houstontx.gov | **Michael Goh** @ Michael.Goh@houstontx.gov



Getting Started

To view the **My City 2** interactive mapping web site requires that **Adobe Flash Player** version 16.0.0.305 or greater be installed. The site is based on the **Environmental System Research Institute's** (ESRI) Adobe Flex API. The application should be compatible with all of the standard internet browsers: Internet Explorer 8.0 or higher, as well as recent versions of Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, and Opera. ArcGIS Viewer for Flex version 3.1 is required for implementation of the latest Viewer. The latest version of the Adobe Flash browser plug-ins will likely be required to take advantage of the latest Viewer and required to support printing to PDF.

Help documents can be downloaded using the '**Help Menu**' or the '**Help Tab**' on the splash screen.



As you access the **My City Houston Map Viewer** web page, the '**My City Main Splash Screen**' displays the '**Disclaimer**' screen. The tabs include information on the following:

- **Disclaimer**
- **Help**
- **News**
- **About**

Click the "**Agree**" button to accept the terms and conditions for using the site. If you disagree, click the "**Disagree**" button which takes you to the official '**City of Houston eGovernment Center**' site @ <http://www.houstontx.gov>.

Disclaimer – Please take time to read the important '**Disclaimer**' before using the web site.

Help – Documents for download are available in this section in PDF format. Also, you can find a copy of this '**Overview Guide**', the "**My City Map Viewer Overview Guide, Version 2**" on the list. Help documents can also be found using the '**Help Menu**'.

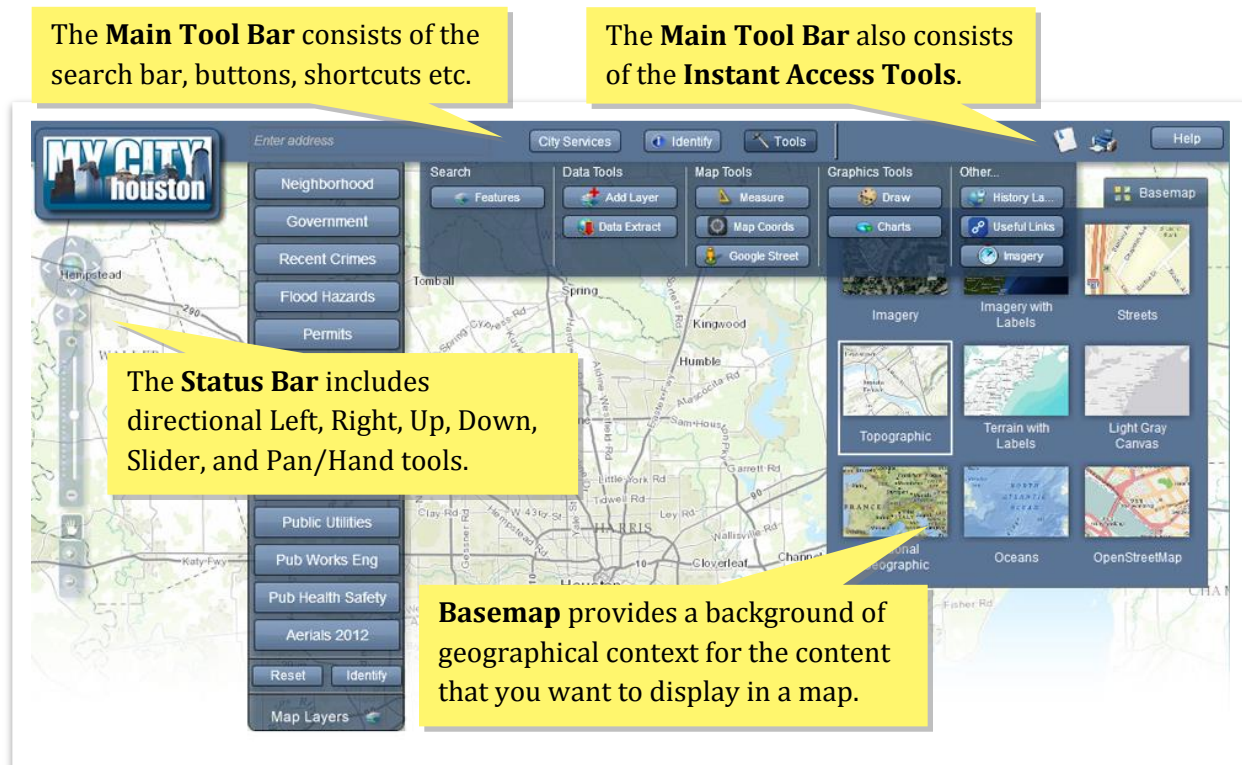
If you have any questions, please see the contact person in the list above or the GIS Hotline at **(832) 393-6555**.

News – Click the '**News Tab**' for more details on the "**My City Map Viewer, Version 2**". News is updated on a regular basis and could provide important information on the use of the site. New



items include announcement of new datasets, functionalities, and tools, or may alert the user to a problem that has been identified.

About – General information about the "My City Map Viewer, Version 2" application, includes who to contact to report problems and to request additions or changes to the application.



The overview image of 'My City Houston, Version 2' menus and navigations.



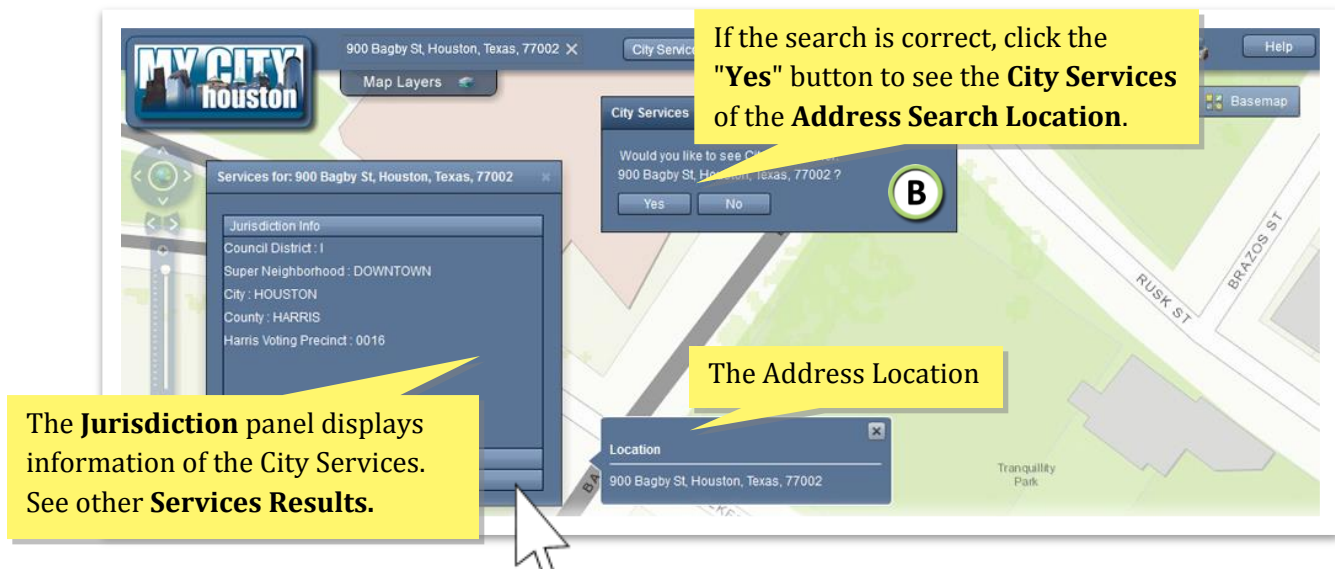
Using the Address Locator Tool

The 'Address Locator' tool is located on the **Main Tool Bar**, beside the 'My City' logo.



SEARCH BY ADDRESS: Enter an **Address** and/or **City** in the address search bar (*Enter address*) provided. Street types are preferred but not required. You can add on a street type, even if it is wrong, and still get a match. This is due to the way that address geocoding tools attempt to standardize addresses prior to performing the matching operation.

The Address function should be able to work from a single address string and bring back a list of addresses based on a best match. Once the address gets a match, select the address displayed from the dropdown list of addresses, i.e. **900 Bagby St, Houston, 77002**, (see "A"). Or, you can complete entering the address on the address search bar.



The dialog box will ask if you would like to see the **City Services** of the location; click the **"Yes"** button, (see **"B"**). In the background, the map will zoom to the area around the best match and that address displayed in the **'Label Panel'**. Location: **900 Bagby St, Houston, 77002**.

City Services options include:

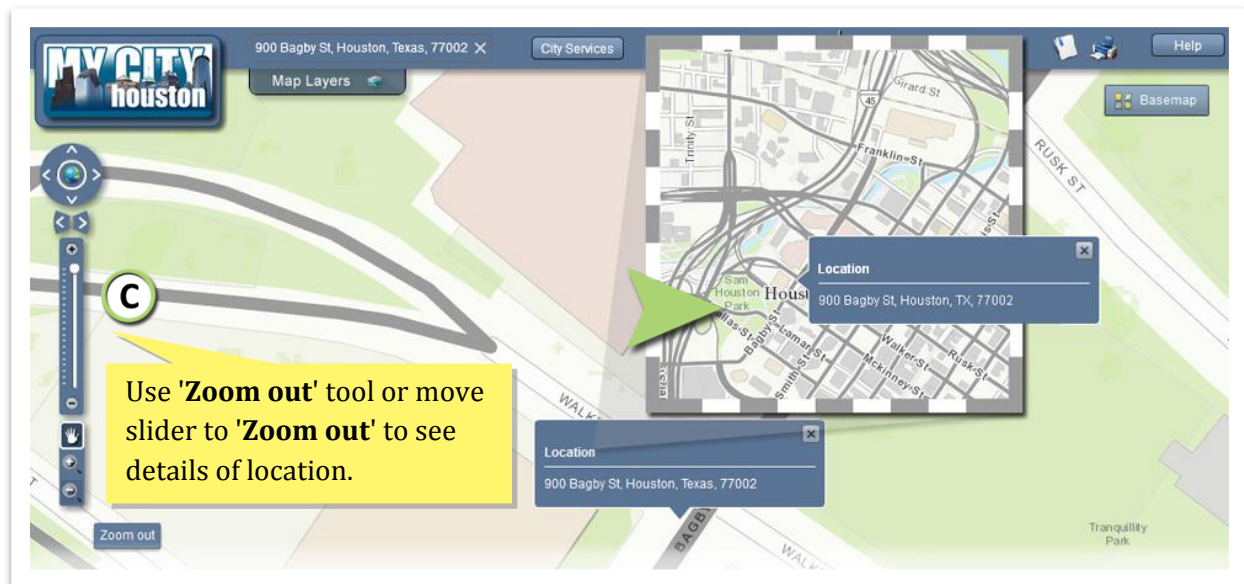
- Jurisdiction Info
- Solid Waste Schedules
- Police

Entering the address opens the City Services panels for **Jurisdiction Info** and displays the **Council District, Super Neighborhood, City Limit, County** and **Harris Voting Precinct** (see below).



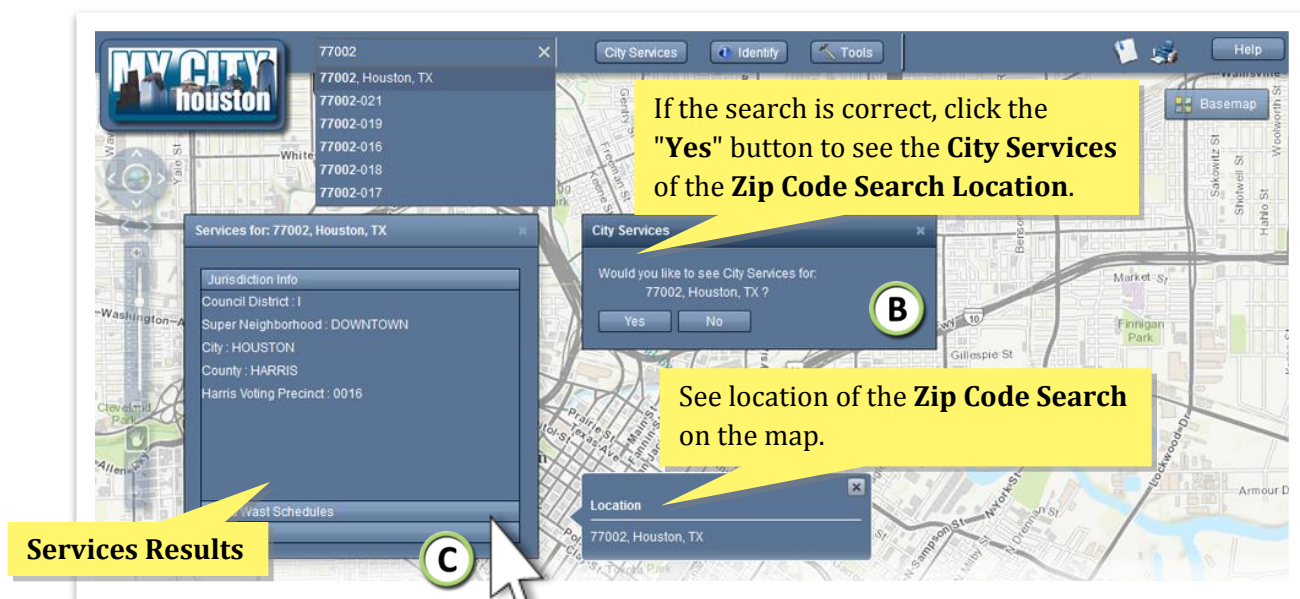
On the **Navigation Bar**, using the **'Zoom out'** tool on the left, click on the **"minus"** icon to view a larger area of the map. Or, you can drag the zoom slider **"down"** to **'Zoom out'**, (see **"C"**, below).





SEARCH BY ZIP CODE: Enter a **Zip Code** in the address search bar (*Enter address*) provided. Once the zip code gets a match, select the city displayed from the dropdown list of zip code/cities, i.e. **77002, Houston, TX**, (see "A").





The dialog box will ask if you would like to see **City Services** for the location; click the "Yes" button, (see "B"). In the background, the map will zoom to the area displayed in the 'Label Panel'. Location: **77002, Houston, TX**.

The tool will attempt to locate (or geocode) the address. If results are found, the tool will switch to the 'Results' panel and list them. The map will zoom to the area around the best match and also highlight that address. If the user wants to zoom to one of the other results, simply click on that result listing in the table shown in the 'Results' panel.

To find out about the **Solid Waste information** for the selected location, click on the 'Solid Waste Schedules Tab', (see "C"). The results will show up in the 'Solid Waste Schedules' panel.

A. Jurisdiction results include information on the following:

- **Mayor's Office** and link to web site
- **City Council District** member, link to web site and District. Example: **District A - K**
- **At-large Council** members, links to web sites and Position No. Example: **1 - 5**
- **Super Neighborhood** name and number, link to Planning and Development Dept. web page
- Information on whether the location is in the **City Limits** (FULL vs LIMITED purpose area) and/or in the **Extra Territorial Jurisdiction** (ETJ). If it is a Limited Purpose Area, it will report on the types of city services provided based on the original agreement with the appropriate **Municipal Utility District** (MUD).



My City 2 Overview Guide

B. Solid Waste Schedules. Click the '**Address Results**' pane, (third small icon on the top of the tool window) and click on the '**Solid Waste Schedules**' button to view the solid waste collection schedules for an address, see "**B**").

The results will be shown in the '**Solid Waste Schedules**' panel. If the address is in a recycling pick-up area, a link will provide the **Solid Waste Department** page that lists printable schedules for recycling pick-up.

C. Police. Click the '**Address Results**' panel, (third small icon on the top of the tool window) and click on the '**Police**' button to find out the **HPD Police Division, District, and Beat for the address**.

- **Address** - Address or Intersection Entry
- **Coordinates** - Coordinates Entry of Longitudes (X) and Latitudes (Y).
Example: -95.3692, 29.7600 is Houston City Hall
- **Address Results** - Location Results
- **Jurisdiction Results** - Jurisdiction Information.

Search for City Council Districts

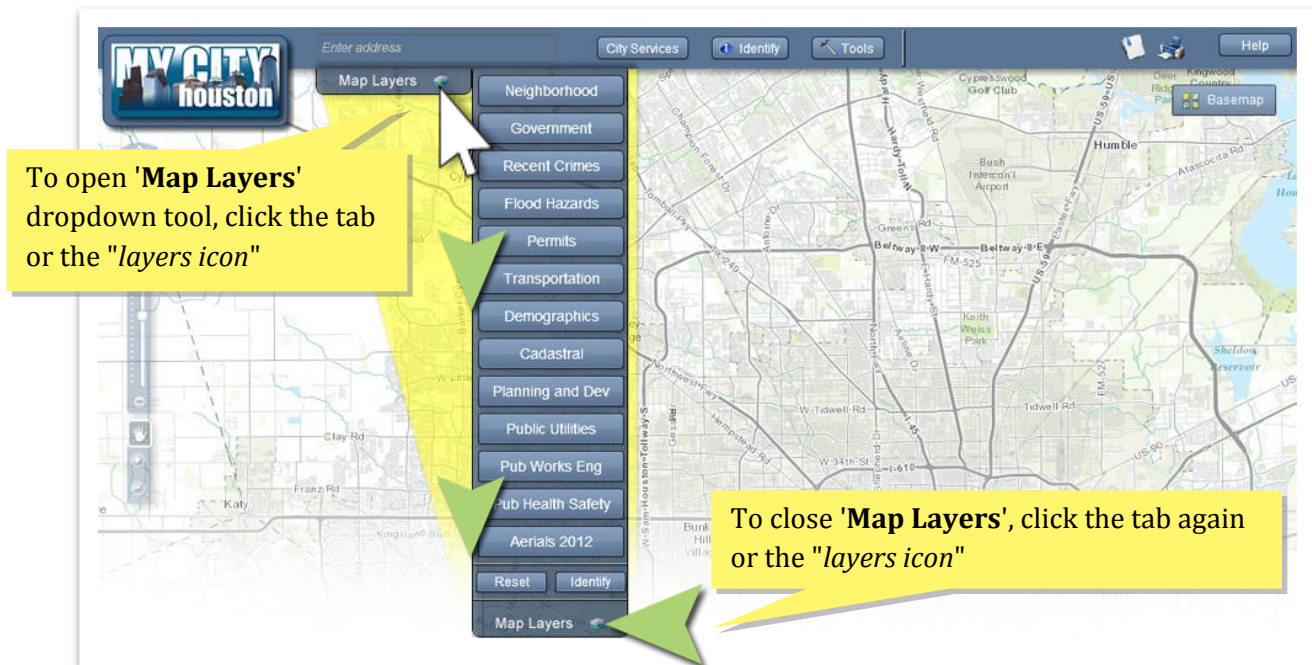
Searching for **City Council Districts** is just one of the many search tools you can find in **My City 2**. Here is an example for getting you familiar with using the mapping application.

To access **City Council Districts**, first you have to access it from the '**Map Layers**' tool (see below). The '**Map Layers Menu**' is located below the '**Address Locator**' on the **Main Tool Bar**. Click the '**Map Layers Menu**' tab, or the "**layers icon**" to access the dropdown tool for the variety of options.

IMPORTANT:

Other search options that one might be interest in can be found in the **Map Data Layers Guide**. More detailed information in using the '**Map Layers**' tools can also be found in the complete guide. The **My City 2 User Guide** document can be downloaded from the '**Help Menu**' or the '**Help Tab**' on the splash screen. It can also be found on the web at <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/home/documents.html>





*Note: The City's GIS data are constantly updated. The Enterprise GIS team assures that the data in this application will be updated on a regular basis as new datasets from different departments are received. The categories within the **'Map Layers'** are accurate representations of when it was set up.*

Map Layers options include:

- Neighborhood
- Government
- Recent Crimes
- Flood Hazards
- Permits
- Transportation
- Demographics
- Cadastral
- Planning and Development
- Public Utilities
- Public Works Engineering
- Public Health Safety
- Aerials 2012



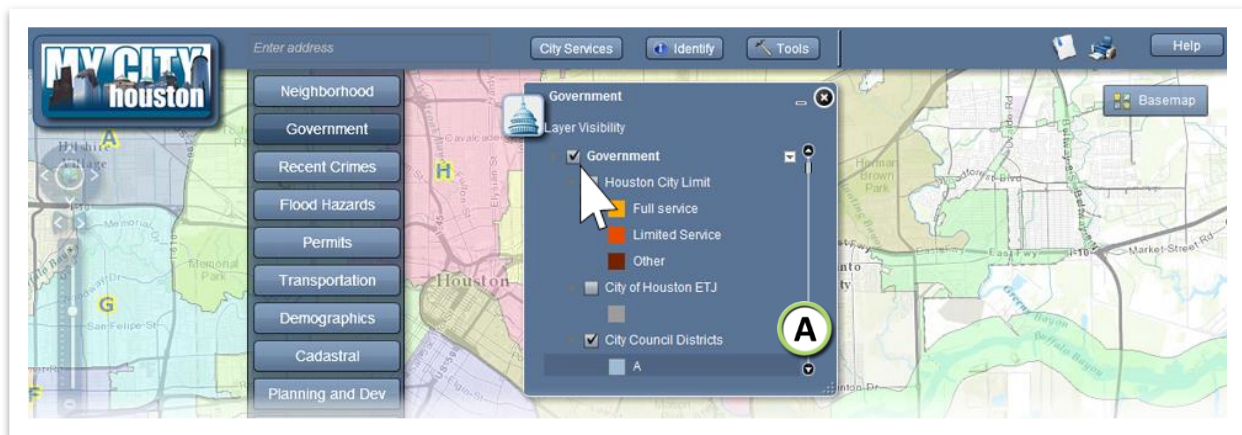
It can be minimized by a click on the "**Map Layers Tab**" or the "*layers icon*" again. Click either one to open it again. To access the **data layers**, click on the categories of interest.

City Council Districts

Clicking on the '**Government**' button opens the '**Government Panel**' and the sub-category (or several sub-categories) of the layer visibilities. To view data, check the "**boxes**" for the layers that you would like **My City** to locate. In this case, check the "**box**" for '**City Council Districts**' (see arrow). Scroll down also to see other layers hidden within the panel, see "**A**".

Within the '**Government Panel**', the sub-category option includes: *Houston City Limit, City of Houston ETJ, City Council Districts, Super Neighborhoods, Management Districts, Tax Incentive Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ), Municipal Utility Districts (MUD), HISD- High School Boundaries, School Districts, County Boundaries, County Commissioner Precincts (varies), North Harris County Regional Water Authority, West Harris County Regional Water Authority, Lambert Tiles and Zip Codes.*

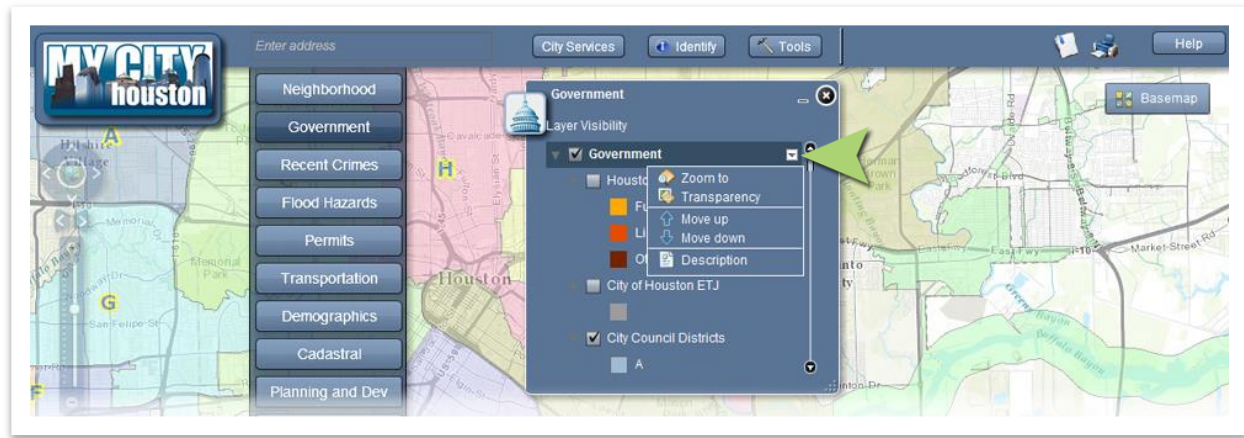
City Council District: District A – K on the map.



The **example** above shows '**Government Map Layer**' selected with '**Houston City Council Districts**' – "checked" in the '**Map Layers**'. Results: Houston City Council Districts, A – K.



Each 'Map Layers Data Panel' has a set of dropdown 'Layer Visibilities Description' panels.



Clicking on the 'Layer Visibilities Description' dropdown arrow opens the following options:

- **Zoom to:** The map will be zoomed to the location.
- **Transparency:** To set the transparency of the layer to the desired level, (see, "A")
- **Move up:** The map will be moved up to the location.
- **Move down:** The map will be moved down to the location.
- **Description:** Displays the Map Servers layers, (see, "B")

Layer Transparency

You can set the transparency of the layer to the desired level by dragging the 'Set Layer Transparency Sliders' from **0%** (Opaque) to **100%** (Transparent).



The **example** above shows '**Government Map Layer**' selected with Layer Visibility of **City Council District** displayed for transparency settings.

Map Server Description

Clicking the '**Description**' tab opens a new browser window of the **Map Server Service URL**. In this example we selected the **City Council Districts' Government Map Layer** and the browser displays all the information of the **Government Boundaries' descriptions, City Council Districts' layers** and other related layers.

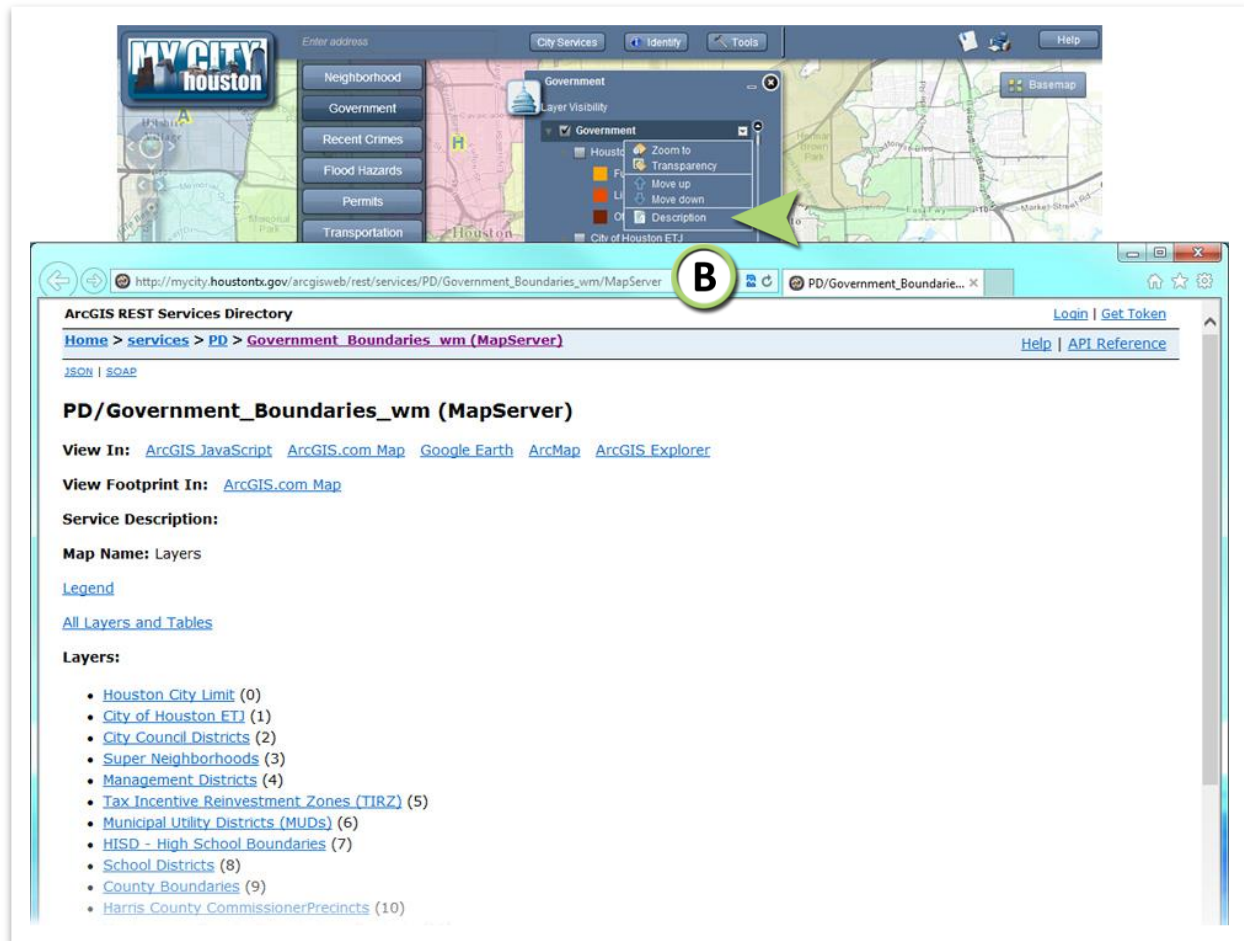
In the address bar of the new browser is the URL of the **Map Service** for the specific dataset. The address can then be entered in another mapping application to view the layers and all the descriptions.

For more information about **Map Server Service URL** and using '**My City 2**', the complete guide -- the **My City 2 User Guide** document can be downloaded from the '**Help Menu**' or the '**Help Tab**' on the splash screen. It can also be found on the web at <http://mycity.houstontx.gov/home/documents.html>

Resource: **Map Server Service URL**

Location: Tools > Add Layer: Adding a **Map Server Service URL**





The **example** above shows '**Government Map Layer**' selected with Layer Visibility of **City Council District** layer displayed with the **Map Server** information displayed on a new browser window. Note the displayed Layers.

